

The following message was received from the Governor;

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,  
AUSTIN, March 28, 1883

The Senate and House of Representatives:

GENTLEMEN—I herewith return Senate bill No. 333, entitled "An act relating to the United States government exclusive jurisdiction over certain property in the city of Dallas."

It is presumed that the ownership of this property prior to the gift purchase by the United States, was in private parties.

It has never been doubted that the Federal government, as a corporation, and to carry out its constitutional duty to the States, could acquire title to such property as might be necessary to conduct its court and postal affairs. To accomplish this, it is not necessary to get the consent of the States. This act, in the first place, grants the Federal government exclusive jurisdiction over property named, and in the latter part reserves jurisdiction to the State so far as to allow it to enter and execute its civil and criminal laws.

In my judgment, the act attempts to do exactly what each has an undoubted right to do without the bill.

It would not be competent for the Legislature to yield, or part with the sovereignty of the State, nor would it be competent for the Federal government to so far acquire exclusive jurisdiction over any territory in this State as to exclude the State therefrom, in order to execute her laws. Again, it seems to me, that title 15 of the Revised Statutes makes ample provision on this subject. Article 333 of that title provides how the State may act in such matters. As that title is a general law, and appears full and complete, it appears to me that the bill under consideration is in conflict with the latter part of section 50, article 3, of the Constitution, which reads as follows: "And in all other cases, when a general law can be made applicable, no local or special law shall be enacted."

I am therefore constrained to withhold my approval of said bill, and ask your honorable bodies to reconsider it.

Very respectfully,

JOHN IRELAND,  
Governor.

On motion of Senator Gooch, the message and accompanying bill were referred to Committee on State Affairs, the committee to which the bill was originally referred.